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KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1963



KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1963

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Telephone No.:
Kidderminster 2237.

LAND OAK HOUSE,
KIDDERMINSTER

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. E. HOBSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. HINGLEY, J.P.

COUNCILLOR C. BLOUNT

"	H. DOOLITTLE
"	W. H. GARDINER, LT. COL.
"	G. R. GILLEY
"	J. T. HARDY
"	H. E. HICKTON
"	G. LEE
"	J. PAGE
"	J. POWICK
"	E. SMITH
"	S. SPENCER
"	M. W. STAITE
"	C. E. TALBOT
"	J. W. WARDLE, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer:

R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant: C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk:

Mrs. I. M. MANN

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer: E. LEE

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the
year 1963.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in Acres	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident Population mid 1963	12,140
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1963	4,143
Rateable Value	£355,821
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,355

Social Conditions

In the main the inhabitants of the distict are engaged in agriculture and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in neighbouring towns and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics

			1963	1962
Births	Males	Females	Total	Total
(a) Live Births: Legitimate	95	100	195	206
Illegitimate	4	1	5	6
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...			16.5	17.7
Birth Rate for England and Wales ...			18.2	18.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births			2.5	2.8
(b) Still Births: Legitimate ...	4	0	4	1
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0	0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated popu- lation ...			.33	.08
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales ...			17.3	18.1
(c) Total Live and Still Births	103	101	204	213

Deaths

	Males	Females	1963 Total	1962 Total
(a) Number registered for District	72	48	120	115
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			9.18	9.5
Death Rate for England and Wales			12.2	11.9
(b) Maternal Mortality			0	0
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births			0	0
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales			.28	.35
(c) Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)	1	3	4	10
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:				
All infants per 1,000 Live Births			20.0	47.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			20.5	48.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			0	0
(d) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	1	1	2	8
Neo-natal mortality rate (first 4 weeks)			10.0	37.6
Neo-natal mortality rate for England and Wales			14.2	15.1
(e) Early neo-natal Mortality (under 1 week)	0	1	1	6
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)			5.0	28.6
(f) Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			24.5	32.9
(g) Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births (under 1 year)			20.9	20.7

Causes of Death:					M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis — Respiratory	...	...		—	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...			1	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...			2	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms				5	6
15.	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	...	...		2	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...			5	7
18.	Coronary Disease — Angina	...	...		18	5
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...			1	—
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	12	12
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...		3	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...			1	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...			1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...		—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...		1	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...		—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...			5	7
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...		2	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	4	1
Total all Causes					72	48

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area Staff

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Mr. C. G. Knott, Assistant, and of Mrs. I. M. Mann as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council. A system of wireless control is based at the operational headquarters at the County Medical Officer of Health's offices at Love's Grove, Worcester; telephone numbers Worcester 21611/5.

The ambulance station at Kidderminster has been augmented and now operates on a fully manned twenty-four hour basis.

Nursing at Home

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the area.

Infant Welfare Centres

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the area — at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown and Gorst Hill, where immunisation and vaccination is carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the area.

The Doctor is in attendance at the clinics on the following days:—

Far Forest — 2nd Tuesday even months.
Gorst Hill — 2nd Wednesday odd months.
Wolverley — 1st Tuesday each month.
Cookley — 2nd Friday each month.
Blakedown — 4th Thursday each month.
Wribbenhall — 3rd Tuesday each month.
Chaddesley Corbett — 1st Thursday each month.

Hospitals

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

Tuberculosis

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment when necessary. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6.30 p.m., Wednesday at 10.0 a.m., and Thursday at 2.0 p.m., at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for prevention and after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee.

Venereal Disease

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water

Elan Valley Water Supply to Trimpey and Low Habberley

In July a routine sample of water was taken from number 3, Low Habberley, and a certificate was received from the County Public Health Laboratory stating that the water was unfit for drinking by reason of the presence of 35 parts per 100 ml coliform bacilli and part 1 per 100 ml Bact. coli.

The North West Worcestershire Water Board was informed at once and further sampling was carried out.

All consumers on the main were notified of the necessity to boil all drinking water until further notice.

Continuous flushing of the mains was carried out but the trouble was not eradicated.

Despite exhaustive investigations as to the cause by the Water Board and your Health Department, no certain source of pollution was discovered and it was decided to chlorinate the supply.

A temporary connection was made to the main supplying the Bridgnorth Rural District Council treated with chlorinated water. This work ensured a safe supply of water pending the installation of a new chlorinator on the existing main.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 27 other samples of water from the main sources of supply for the area for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

Water Supplies to Houses in the Rural District

Parish	From Public Mains, Number of Premises	From Private Supplies, e.g. Wells, Springs, etc. Number of Premises	Total
Wolverley ...	1,405	4	1,409
Upper Arley ...	296	15	311
Ribbesford ...	28	4	32
Churchill & Blakedown	475	2	477
Rock	647	20	667
Broome	96	12	108
Stone	175	20	195
Rushock	54	2	56
Kidderminster Foreign	350	20	370
Chaddesley Corbett ...	503	15	518
Totals ...	4,029	114	4,143

Percentage of houses connected to Public Mains = 97.5%

Drainage and Sewage

Chaddesley Corbett

The year has seen the near completion of the sewer connections on the line of the new sewer. A few properties remain to be connected, but all are the subject of major conversion schemes and are in hand.

This scheme has, in my opinion, been one of the major improvements which have been carried out in the District and has, without doubt, enhanced the beauty of this black and white village and proved of great Public Health benefit. Credit is due to all concerned, particularly the owners of properties and the occupants for their forebearing attitude during the years.

Callow Hill, Rock

The provision of an adequate sewerage scheme for this area is even more urgent in view of the continuing modernisation of properties in this area and especially the installation of modern sanitation. It is again recommended that action be taken in the very near future.

Summary of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal to Permanent Houses

Parish	Houses connected to a Public Sewer	No. of Houses with:	
		Pails	Septic Tanks, etc.
Wolverley ...	1,124	6	145
Upper Arley ...	39	28	114
Ribbesford ...	—	—	32
Churchill & Blaked'n	300	6	177
Rock	73	54	594
Broome	2	—	106
Stone	76	8	119
Rushock ...	10	6	46
Kidderm'ster Foreign	20	16	250
Chaddesley Corbett	306	21	275
Totals ...	1,950	145	1,858

River Pollution

River Stour and Canal

The pollution of the rivers and streams in the area still remains a serious problem but it is anticipated that action which will be taken under the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, will bring about a steady improvement in the future.

During the year the problem of the overloading of the sewers in the Blakedown area came to a head when it was proved that the present Disposal Works were totally inadequate to deal with the ever-increasing amounts of sewage.

Immediate emergency steps were taken to improve the effluent and the Council decided to push ahead with the enlargement of these works.

Both myself and the Chief Public Health Inspector cannot emphasise too strongly the absolute necessity for this work to be carried out without delay as there has been no major extension carried out to these works since they were installed in 1904.

HOUSING

(a) Action under Housing Act during the year

Number of houses represented for Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of houses represented for Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made (whole houses)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made (part of a building)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders changed to Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Undertakings not to use house accepted	...	...	...	...	...	6
Undertakings to repair house accepted	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses actually demolished during the year	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	...	...	10

(b) Public Health Act

Houses in which defects were remedied:

After informal action by Local Authority	...	197
After formal action by Local Authority	...	Nil

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	102
Intimation letters sent	...	...	...	43
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	1

HOUSING ACT, 1936. Part IV — OVERCROWDING

No case of serious overcrowding has come to light during the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Our efforts to persuade all parents to bring their children for immunisation continued as before.

A further 159 children under five years of age and 17 children from five to fifteen years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 174 were given booster doses.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year 38 persons were vaccinated and 19 were re-vaccinated.

Notifications

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1963 are set out in the following table:—

Disease	Age in years							Total No. of Cases	No. of Cases Admit- ted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	8	1	—
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	—	13	15	—	5
Measles	1	16	27	70	15	—	1	130	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	4	1	6	—	—	—	13	—	—
Totals	2	23	30	80	17	—	14	166	1	5

Tuberculosis

One new case only was notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory M. F.		Non- Respiratory M. F.		Respiratory M. F.		Non- Respiratory M. F.	
- 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 44	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 - 64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1959

There are seven factories in the district. Conditions of employment are very satisfactory and the owners co-operate to the full with your Health Department.

Part I of the Act

Premises				Number on Register	Inspections
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities 				7	21

No defects were found during the year.

Part VIII of the Act — Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Outworkers in August List	Section 110 No. of cases of default in sending Lists	No. of prosecutions
Making wearing apparel	1	Nil	Nil

There is only one person employed on outwork, viz., glove knitting in her own home and conditions are ideal.

Conclusion

The modernisation and extension of the Blakedown Sewage Disposal Works has now become a matter of great urgency, especially in view of the partial breakdown which occurred during the year.

A Sewage Disposal Works of adequate size to cater for the present and estimated future needs of the Callow Hill area should be undertaken at an early date.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM

Medical Officer of Health

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1963

Annual Report

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1963

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS

Meat

The three slaughterhouses have not been in use during the year.

Milk

The premises used for this trade which come under the jurisdiction of the Council have given no cause for complaint.

Other Foods

The following details show the position with regard to food premises:—

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act	Inspections
General Provisions	47	—	194
Cafes	9	—	64
Hotels and other licensed premises	35	—	115
Works Canteens ...	1	—	8
Dairies	20	—	81
Ice Cream Manufac- turers ...	1	1	17
Ice Cream Retailers	40	40	94

As a result of frequent visits, personal contact and distribution of handbills of guidance there has been no need to bring to the notice of food traders any serious infringement of regulations. They have a good sense of their responsibilities to the general public and are willing to adopt any reasonable suggestion made by the Health Department.

The storage of food in deep freeze has received concentrated attention during the year, and the attention of all food traders has been drawn to the absolute necessity of maintaining the equipment in perfect condition and the continual turnover of stock.

Ice Cream

There is only one small ice cream manufacturer in this district, and this being a family concern of long standing is run under very good conditions. There has been no need to draw attention to any infringement of the Regulations

All other ice cream sold in the area comes from large concerns in other areas.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Number of unexpired Licences in force	...	10
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Bakehouses

Number on register December, 1963	...	2
Inspections	19

Contraventions Remedied:

Limewashing	2
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PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Until the end of March this service was carried out by three lorries. One S.D. Freighter with a crew of three, one 3-ton Bedford Eagle lorry with a crew of three, and a Contractor's lorry manned by two men.

The S.D. Freighter covered the parishes of Wolverley, Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown and Broome and gave a fortnightly service to these built-up areas. The Bedford dealt with the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone and Rushock and gave a fortnightly service. The parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford were dealt with by the Contractor.

After that date, due to the delivery of a new 14 cu. yd. S.D. Fore and Aft Tipper, the Council were able to considerably improve the refuse collection schedule.

The following are details of the number of loads dealt with:

Tipped at Caunsall	...	1578
Tipped at Rock	... ..	31
Tipped at Heightington	...	82
		—
Total	...	1691
		—

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

The Kidderminster Rural District is such that many thousands of holiday makers spend considerable periods in caravans throughout the district. Up to the moment thirty-two sites comprising 604 caravans are licensed and facilities have been provided in accordance with the Model Standards.

It is pleasing to be able to record that almost without exception, owners and occupiers of sites have faced up to their responsibility and shown every co-operation.

A close touch has been maintained with the Worcester City and County Fire Brigade, and their suggestions with regard to fire fighting arrangements have been adopted.

The caravan dwellers themselves are almost without exception a good type who take pride in the maintenance of their caravans and sites.

There still remain a number of sites which are still in a state of flux with regard to the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Water Supply

Bacteriological samples of the water supplies in the Rural District are regularly taken and when necessary chemical analyses are made. Details of samples taken are as follows:—

		Fit	Unfit	Total
From Public Mains	...	27	1	28
From Private Supplies (Wells and Springs)	...	5	8	13

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, 1963

Particulars of visits and inspections are as follows:—

Housing Inspection (Public Health & Housing Acts)	911
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	595
Dairies	81
Fried Fish Premises	3
Infectious Diseases	14
Overcrowding	464
Premises where animals are kept	115
Schools	12
Water Courses	118
Water Supply	156
Workshops	8
Provision of Dustbins	272
Miscellaneous	1002
Refuse Collection	2015

SANITARY WORK

Interior of Houses

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants ...	17
Verminous houses dealt with	1

Yards and Outbuildings

Dirty yards and W.C.'s cleansed by tenants ...	17
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc.	204

Drainage

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction ...	152
Defective drains repaired	80
New drains provided	121
Sinks provided	82
Cesspools abolished	31

Water Closets

New Water Closets erected	...	...	58
Foul and obstructed W.C.'s cleansed	...	...	68
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired	...	...	76
Water Closets repaired	...	...	59
Defective water supply to W.C.'s remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)	...	...	197

Conversions:

Conversions of privies to W.C.'s	...	...	Nil
Conversion of pail closets to W.C.'s	64

Privies and Pail Closets

New pans provided to pail closets	12
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Ashpits and Dustbins

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	276
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants	57

Various

Nuisance from improper keeping of animals	72
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RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

Infestation Order, 1943

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses	...	...	393
Number of other infestations dealt with	...	...	78
Number of complaints received	...	...	154

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

HOUSING

A further 39 houses were erected during the year, making a total of 855 since the war. A further 16 are in the course of erection.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Your Public Health Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Officer, and the following figures are of interest:—

Number of premises Licensed for storage:

Private	...	...	...	...	4
Business	...	...	...	...	43
For Re-sale	...	...	...	...	12
					—
Total					59
					—

Total fees received £34 15s. 0d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licensee to any serious infringement of the Acts.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year?

The work shown in the foregoing report could only have been successfully carried out with the loyal support of Mr. Knott, Public Health Assistant, Mrs. I. M. Mann, Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk, and Mr. Lee, Rats and Mice Destruction Officer. I herewith pay tribute to their services.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. Chapman, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Public Health Inspector

THE COOKLEY PRINTERS (R. L. Miller), near Kidderminster.

(Tel: Wolverley 337)